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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 3384.0342-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

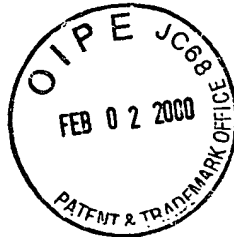
In re Application of:

Donald R. Ellis et al.

Serial No.: 09/467,243

Filed: December 20, 1999

For: SELF-HEALING LINK SWITCHED
RING FOR ATM TRAFFIC



Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Examiner: Not Assigned

#2/A
1. McLaughlin
3-25-00
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 13-16, 19, 20 and 22 and amend claims 1, 5-7, 10-12, 17, 18 and 21 as follows:

1. A method for communicating information over a BLSR SONET line switched ring having a plurality of [(k)] of communication terminals connected [to] over a first and second transmission line, the method comprising the steps of:

at each terminal [(k)], inserting an outgoing signal onto said first transmission line along a first direction of transmission defined from said terminal [(k),] towards [an] the first adjacent

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